

SJUNews *FLASH*

A weekly email to share important information and to alert you to upcoming events.

Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON

www.sjuned.org

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

(best way to contact the office)

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

***Reminder: have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion on February 4th.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 AM
LIVESTREAM FROM THE INTERFAITH CENTER

Use this same link for EVERY SJU worship service!

[SJU Worship Service Livestream](#)

This worship service link is also posted on both our website and our Facebook page.

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)

Our service also streams live on our Youtube page, beginning at 10:30 am.

[SJU YouTube](#)

We invite all persons back into worship on Sunday mornings at our 10:30 a.m. service in Room 4 of the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. We hope you have been able to receive all COVID vaccinations and boosters.

SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP – 7:00 PM – VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 835 8748 4349

Password: 940379

Join online: [Sundays at 7pm Zoom link](#)

Or by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Stay Well and Keep Others Well This Season!

We ask that you stay home and worship with us virtually via our [SJU Worship Service Livestream](#) if you or a member of your household:

- have any symptoms of flu, RSV, pneumonia, or COVID-19, such as fever, chills, headache, cough, gastric distress, loss of smell, and shortness of breath;
- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 5 days; or
- have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for, or who has symptoms of, COVID-19 within the past 5 days.

For those who wish to worship in person, masking is at your discretion, and we recommend congregants seat at a comfortable distance from one another for worship. Everyone is invited to sing.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the door to the sanctuary as needed. Tithes and offerings will be collected upon exit of worship in a basket near the door.

SJU Pastor Transition Update

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

February 2, 2024

As of February 1, SJU officially began its next phase of the pastor transition - to discern and live into the blessings that Pastor Mary Ka bestowed upon us while our pastor, and hear where and how God is calling us to be United in Love – United for Service. SJU has been served by 8 pastors in its 55-year history. We have done this before and we can do it again. We now look forward to securing an interim pastor who will assist our transition to finding and getting to know our next called pastor. Here is the latest transition news:

- Worship this Sunday, February 4, will be led by Susan Moody, with Lon Chesnutt presiding over Communion.
- Please be sure to come to the February 11 worship service, in person or online, to welcome and hear Rev. Renee Mackey as she starts her 8-week tenure with us as bridge pastor while we arrange for an interim pastor. She is excited to be with us part-time through Easter, March 31 to lead worship, provide crisis pastoral care and oversee Council and staff. By way of introduction, she provides this brief bio:

“I was born and raised in the Midwest and taught school in Denver, Colorado where I earned a Master’s Degree in Library Science. God then called me into ministry first as a Ruling Elder and then as a Teaching Elder. I served three churches, one in Iowa and two in Maryland. I received my Doctor of Ministry Degree from Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary and served Baltimore Presbytery as Moderator. I was honored to represent the Presbytery at the 221st General Assembly as commissioner and am now helping churches with pastoral leadership as needed.”

- Council will soon have the opportunity to meet with the interim pastor nominee recommended by Baltimore Presbytery in preparation to approve the appointment.
- The Nominations and Personnel Committee on Lay Leadership has begun its search among the congregation to select a representative slate of Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) nominees for congregational approval.

Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

NAME TAGS ARE BACK!

New magnetic name badges are now located outside of Room 4. If you do not see a name tag for yourself and would like one, please reach out to Meredith Phillips at meredithcp88@gmail.com.

PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

This Week in Your Prayers (your prayers are felt and make a difference!):

- Please pray for **Greg Phillips and family** on the death of Greg's mother, Donna Budani, age 80 years, after a brief illness. The family will travel out of state for the memorial service. Greg, Meredith, Caitlin, Connor and Ella appreciate your care and prayers.
- Please keep **Roy Ferguson** in your prayers, as he faces some medical issues. Please pray for his care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails (royaferguson@yahoo.com).
- **Judy Douds** is back at home. Keep her and her husband, **Dave**, in your prayers. Both would appreciate cards: 719 Maiden Choice La, BR 231, Catonsville MD 21228.
- Pray for **Andrea Barnes**, whose son, **Eric**, recently underwent major surgery for a health matter. Please keep Eric Barnes in Michigan, in your prayers for diagnosis and recovery. Cards and calls are welcomed: 6682 Possum Ct, Columbia MD 21045; 301-596-2836.
- Keep in your prayers **Charles Dyer**, who is unable to get to church easily these days, and is awaiting a transition to an assisted living facility nearby. Cards and phone calls will be appreciated: 9895 Palace Hall Dr, #313, Laurel MD 20723; 301-604-4750; cadassoc@aol.com
- Remember **Morris Range**, age 96, living at Riderwood retirement community.
- **Nancy Gabie** asks for prayers for her brother, Terrence Gabie, is experiencing health issues and is seeking costly medical treatment. Your prayers for a way to be made are earnestly requested by Nancy on behalf of her whole family.
- **Debra Snow's** mother, **Mary**, is resting comfortably in hospice care. Debbie would welcome prayers, cards and calls of support: 12100 Little Patuxent Pky #E, Columbia MD 21044; 510-708-1127; debrasnow@sbcglobal.net
- **Pamela Love** requests prayers for her **brother Brad Gibson**, living with a serious chronic health condition, and for her **mother**, whose dementia is worsening. Pamela welcomes cards: 6229 Light Point Pl, Columbia MD 21045.
- Our hearts and voices continue to join in prayer for the **people of the Ukraine** and all who are experiencing fear and violence as a result of a conflict with Russia.
- For the **world at large**, please pray earnestly for the ones **suffering in Israel and Palestine** following unprecedented attacks on life. Pray for an end to the violence in Israel, the preservation of innocent lives caught in this war, and a just resolution that brings some peace to the land of our Biblical and spiritual heritage.
- Pray for our **church worldwide, pray for SJU in its pastoral transition, and its leaders and members**, pray for one another, our neighbors, and for yourself and often. Pray for what burdens your heart and mind for the world, our nation and our neighborhood.

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-RACISM / SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAMS

Susan Moody shares this Action Alert from PCUSA Office of Public Witness:

Take Action for a Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid for Gaza: The devastating loss of life in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories since October 7 has overshadowed what had already been one of the deadliest years for both peoples in recent memory. The US must intensify its efforts to halt the bloodshed, appeal to all parties to respect international humanitarian law, and promote long-term diplomatic efforts. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza must be addressed immediately, and all hostages still held in captivity must be released. Urge elected officials to call for a ceasefire, press parties to abide by international law, release hostages and protect civilians, and support humanitarian aid and access to Gaza!

For more information, click the link and scroll down to the blue “Click Here to Take Action” button:

[Take Action for a Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid for Gaza](#)

[NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE](#)

Unpacking the Matthew 25 Summit: Baltimore's Presbytery was among the best represented at the first-ever Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta, GA on January 16th-18th. Ten members from across the Presbytery of Baltimore attended, making up one of the three largest groups there. Upon returning, participants were eager to share their enthusiasm and experiences.



[Read more and hear what others had to say.](#)

[A listing of Upcoming Matthew 25 Events](#)
is available here

[NEWS FROM THE BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE](#)

'From healing comes new growth:' The Rev. Sonia King of Brooklyn Community UMC in Baltimore is featured in an [NBC news story](#) about Crownsville Hospital, which for decades was the only place that accepted Black Maryland residents suffering with mental illness. The community is working to turn the grounds of the segregated asylum into a memorial park.

[MESSAGES FROM HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT](#)

Keeping the Faith: On Thursday, January 25th, County Executive Calvin Ball signed an [Executive Order](#) creating Howard County's **first-ever Interfaith Advisory Council** to help combat religious intolerance and hate around our county, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. This council is not just an advisory body, it is a testament to our commitment to build bridges among faiths. It represents our collective resolve to confront intolerance, to end hate and to serve every member of our community with the dignity that they deserve. It will play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for all our residents and better connecting us all. To learn more about the Interfaith Advisory Council, click [HERE](#).



Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with us at the Columbia Mall on **February 10th, 2024**, during our annual Lunar New Year celebration. This festive event promises a tapestry of performances, interactive activities for the whole family, and the chance to connect with the vital organizations that support and nurture our vibrant AAPI Community.

NEWS FROM COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

Black History Month is a special time to commemorate and honor the contributions of the Black community. We encourage everyone to participate in opportunities throughout the month to pay tribute - here are some of the ways CA and our community partners are celebrating!



Howard County Library System Black History Month series: From book club discussions to recipe exchanges, HCLS is hosting activities **all month long** to share and celebrate the stories of countless African-Americans who made a difference in our world.



Beyond the Blues Visual Arts Exhibit: From **February 8 to March 2**, Columbia Art Center will feature the work of 65 local artists inspired by African-American culture.



2nd Annual Black History Fest: The Harriet Tubman Cultural Center is hosting a free celebratory community event with fun activities, performances and exhibits on **Saturday, February 24**.

LET'S REACH SOME FITNESS GOALS TOGETHER!

An eight-week fitness challenge. Attend fitness classes or exercise at any of our six 50+ Centers!



Prizes will be awarded to participants who have achieved 16 workouts at the end of the challenge!

WINTER WELLNESS FITNESS CHALLENGE

Take the Challenge at any Howard County 50+ Center

BAIN • EAST COLUMBIA • ELKRIDGE • ELLICOTT CITY • GLENWOOD • NORTH LAUREL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sherri Lively

GROUP FITNESS CERTIFIED, NUTRITION COACH

410-313-1404 (VOICE/RELAY)

sively@howardcountymd.gov

<http://bit.ly/HoCoWinterFitChallenge>

REGISTER TODAY!

Challenge runs February 1 – March 28, 2024

DIRECTED DONATIONS

At this time, the Finance/Investment team asks that you please do not designate or direct your contributions to SJU toward a specific ministry unless asked. When SJU is aware that specialized ministries need funding, that need will be publicized in advance, and solicited for a specific time and use. The elected leaders of the Church Council are in continual discernment to guide all of SJU's human, financial and spiritual resources in responsible and impactful ways, for the transformation of the world.

ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Columbia Community Care *(updated 1-5-24)*

The contributions of **non-perishable items** from Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and St John United Church congregations at the WLIFC are greatly appreciated! For calendar year 2023, an estimated total of 13,728 items were contributed to Columbia Community Care from the WLIFC congregations through the office totes and WLIFC lobby. This compares to 17,297 items in CY2022 and 34, 306 items in CY2021. CCC and other groups find that in the months after the holiday season there is an increasing need for basic groceries and personal care items.

The CCC pop-up pantries serve an average of 300 families during their two-hour operation on Saturday mornings. These **non-perishable** food items are essential for the hundreds of families who have come to rely on the CCC pantries for weekly support. The season of need is always with us!

Thanks for your generosity.

For more information (updated on 1-5-2024), go here: [FLASH & Announcements](#)

YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!

Please continue helping us meet our need so that all of our ministries and missions can continue and be prepared for the fullness of service in the coming months. Here's how you can help:

Donate through GIVELIFY.

With Givelify, you have two options:

1. Download the GIVELIFY app (iphone or android), search for us by name (Saint John United Church) or phone number (410-730-9137), and follow the steps, or
2. Donate online through this link: [Donate Today](#) and search for us as explained above.



Donate by mail. Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

Make your check payable to **ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**, and mail it (with or without including your contribution envelope) to:

St John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia MD 21044

Donate through your bank or credit union. Set up St. John United Church as you would any other bill through your bank's bill payment option.

IT'S 2024'S TURN!

When possible, consider integrating a short nap into your daily routine. Research suggests that regular napping can potentially reduce the risk of heart disease, offering a much-needed respite for your heart and helping balance stress hormones.



CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 – FEBRUARY 11

All meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted;

links to any open meetings are in this issue

All meetings are open to the members and affiliates of SJU unless otherwise noted. Members are encouraged to connect, be engaged and invested in the life and leadership of this Body of Christ, the church! Contact SJUColumbia@gmail.com if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 2/4	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (led by Susan Moody; Liturgist: Guy Moody)
	2:00 pm	COUNCIL RETREAT (session 1)
Thu, 2/8	6:00 pm	SJU CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL and A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL (Room 4)
Sun, 2/11	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) REV. RENEE MACKEY begins tenure as bridge pastor (Scheduled liturgist: Evann Ridgeway)

Prayer Group Ministry: Anyone in the church may submit a prayer concern to a group prayer chain. Contact Judy Miller (quiltjudy@gmail.com), or Evelyn Chesnutt (lchesnutt@icloud.com). If you would like to be part of the Prayer Group Ministry, also contact Judy or Evelyn and let them know so they can add you to the distribution.

ADMIN OFFICE AND PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS: Yvonne is in the office for a few hours once a week, normally on Thursdays, and Pastor Mary Ka is in as needed each week. Because it might be several days before they can retrieve phone messages, please send them an email with any questions you have, for help you may need, or to make an in-office appointment.

SJUColumbia@gmail.com

PastorKanahanSJU@gmail.com

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SJUColumbia@gmail.com • 410-730-9137 • www.sjuned.org
Facebook: [SJU Facebook](#) YouTube: [SJU YouTube](#)



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

** In case of inclement weather, please check either of the following for announcements:

[SJU Website](#)

[SJU Facebook](#)